

Udaipur named World's Best City

[ANI](#)

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New York, July 11 (ANI): Udaipur has been named the World's Best City in a [poll by Travel and Leisure magazine](#).

The Rajasthani city is the first South Asian hotspot to get the prestigious title.

Each year, readers take part in a survey to vote for their favourite travel-related destinations and accommodations as part of the magazine's annual 'World's Best Awards'.

New York has been voted the 'Best City in America', for the ninth year in a row, reports the NY Daily News.

On a global scale, Bog Apple has managed to come among the top 10, holding the number eight position in the World's Best Cities. (ANI)

[Official Rankings - 2009](#)

1	Udaipur	87.94	11	Sydney	84.27
2	Cape Town	87.69	12	Jaipur	84.14
3	Bangkok	86.80	13	Oaxaca	84.01
4	Buenos Aires	86.22	14	Istanbul	83.90
5	Chiang Mai	86.18	15	Fez	83.82
6	Florence	85.61	16	Cuzco	83.40
7	Luang Prabang	85.45	17	-Jerusalem	83.23
8	New York	84.65	18	Siem Reap	83.17
9	Rome	84.63	19	Quebec City	83.05
10	San Francisco	84.53	20	Kyoto	83.01



Udaipur voted world's best city in travel poll

Mon Jul 13, 2009

SYDNEY (Reuters Life!) - Udaipur, known as the "Venice of the East", was voted the world's best city for travellers in 2009 in an online poll by Travel + Leisure magazine, trouncing last year's winner Bangkok.

The island of Bali in Indonesia topped the Galapagos to be named best island in the annual poll, in which casual and laid-back destinations prevailed.

Magazine readers also voted Bushmans Kloof Cedar Mountains, in South Africa, as the world's top hotel while Singapore Airlines grabbed the best airline award again.

Nancy Novogrod, editor-in-chief of Travel + Leisure said this year's poll reflected changing travel interests in a challenging economy, with Udaipur, famous for its canals and palaces, a current tourist favourite for well-heeled Westerners.

"Value, intimacy, service, and discovery are top priorities. As for that so-last-August-sounding word, luxury, it's all about enclaves that shelter stealth wealth," she said in a statement.

Novogrod said dramatically sited outposts ranging from Jade Mountain in St. Lucia to San Ysidro Ranch in California featured highly this year.

Value ratings for a number of top-ranked cities -- Udaipur, Cape Town, Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Chiang Mai, and Luang Prabang -- were sky-high while other far-flung cities also made a strong showing.

However, favorites such as New York City, Florence, Rome and San Francisco remained in the top 10 overall.

The results were compiled from votes by magazine subscribers in an Internet poll which went live between January and March. Travel + Leisure will honour winners on July 21 in New York.

The complete "World's Best Awards" is available on www.travelandleisure.com. Following are some highlights:

Best city - Udaipur, India

Best hotel - Bushmans Kloof Cedar Mountains, South Africa

Best island - Bali, Indonesia

Best cruise line (large ships) - Crystal Cruises

Best cruise line (small ships) - The Yachts of Seabourn

Best international airline - Singapore Airlines

Best domestic airline - Virgin America

Best tour operator - Austin-Lehman Adventures

Best car-rental agency - Sext

Best destination spa - Mii amo, A Destination Spa at Enchantment, Sedona

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Udaipur voted as the world's best city in poll

TNN 13 July 2009

UDAIPUR: The city of lakes and the Venice of east -- Udaipur -- brought home laurels when it was declared as the world's best city in a poll by Travel and Leisure magazine. With this achievement, the Lake City has become the first south Asian hot spot to get the prestigious title.

Each year, readers take part in a survey to vote for their favourite travel-related destinations and accommodations as a part of the magazine's annual World's Best Awards'.

For people of Udaipur it was great news. City MLA and former home minister, Gulab Chand Kataria said, "It is a matter of pride for all of us. With the status of number one city in the world, our responsibilities to maintain the decorum have increased." Chairperson of Udaipur municipal council, Ravindra Shrimali, said, "We were trying very hard to make the city as the most beautiful city. The municipal council left no stone unturned to make it a clean and green city. Now we will have to work harder to maintain the status."

Raghuvver Singh Meena, MP, congratulated the people of Udaipur and said, "It is a matter of pride for all the Indians that an Indian city has the status of world's number one city. We will try to make it more beautiful."

Anand Singh, district collector, said, "To keep it at number one, we will have to make the city a polythene-free. People participation is required to achieve this target."

The president of hotel association of Udaipur, Subhash Singh Ranawat said, "It will help in increasing the international tourist footfall. We will have to protect the city's rich culture, heritage and its lakes."

District tourism officer Vikas Pandya said, "Thanks to increasing infrastructure facilities that we have this status. Now we hope for a good monsoon, so that all the city lakes will be filled with water, once again."

A large number of domestic and international tourists come here to enjoy Udaipur's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Last year the number of international tourists who visited Udaipur was 1.86 lakh, which was 26,000 more than the number of international tourists in 2007.

It is believed that with the status of number one city of the world, the number of international tourists will increase in the 2009.

Travel + Leisure readers name Udaipur best city

The Associated Press

Posted: 07/13/2009

NEW YORK—The annual list of the "World's Best Cities" as chosen by readers of Travel + Leisure magazine was topped by a city that many Americans may not be familiar with: Udaipur, India.

Last year the No. 1 city on the survey was Bangkok.

Asked if she was surprised by the result, Travel + Leisure editor-in-chief Nancy Novogrod said: "I was, but I'm kind of intrigued. It's a city I love. It's in Rajasthan, it's an ancient city around a lake and it has a beautiful palace with some great hotels and superb resorts," including the Taj Lake Palace and the Oberoi Udaivilas.

Luxury hotel companies are opening properties there because "they are looking for these very special destinations that are unspoiled, that do offer a very rich and real sense of the culture of the region to guests," she said.

Novogrod also spoke highly of the city's art collections and shopping opportunities for fabrics, antiques and handmade clothing.

Novogrod added that among her magazine's readers, she has noticed a "huge migration and interest away from the classic European capitals and classic resorts to destinations that offer a very particular sense of place. ... The world has gotten smaller in some ways and the traditional places have gotten less interesting and more familiar."

Another factor that may have contributed to the No. 1 ranking for Udaipur is that for the first time in the survey's 14-year history, results were included from readers of Travel + Leisure's international editions in South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Australia and New Zealand, Turkey and Mexico.

The magazine's "World's Best" list is based on results of a questionnaire made available online to Travel + Leisure readers. Respondents are permitted to complete the survey only once, and are screened in an effort to remove responses from travel industry professionals.

Completing the top 10 list of best cities behind Udaipur this year were Cape Town; Bangkok; Buenos Aires; Chiang Mai, Thailand; Florence, Italy; Luang Prabang, Laos; New York; Rome and San Francisco.

Other No. 1 spots went to Bushmans Kloof Cedar Mountains in South Africa as best hotel; Bali as best island; Crystal Cruises as best large-ship cruise line; The Yachts of Seabourn as best small-ship cruise line; Singapore Airlines as best international airline; Virgin America as best domestic airline; and Mii amo, A Destination Spa at Enchantment in Sedona, Ariz., as best destination spa.

Complete results are online at <http://www.travelandleisure.com/worldsbest> or in the magazine's August issue, on newsstands July 24.
